Shobhita Sundaram

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Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) — Cambridge, MA
Ph.D. Computer Science — 2022–2027
Advisor: Phillip Isola

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) — Cambridge, MA
S.B. Computer Science, S.B. Mathematics — 2018–2022
Advisors: Pawan Sinha, Xavier Boix, Tomaso Poggio

Publications

** indicates equal contribution*

1. DreamSim: Learning New Dimensions of Human Visual Similarity using Synthetic Data.
   S. Fu*, N. Tamir*, **S. Sundaram***, L. Chai, R. Zhang, T. Dekel, and P. Isola.
   Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2023 **(spotlight)**

2. Recurrent Connections Facilitate Symmetry Perception in Deep Networks.
   S. Sundaram*, D. Sinha*, M. Groth, T. Sasaki, and X. Boix.
   Scientific Reports, vol. 12, no. 1, 2022
   Workshop on Generalization Beyond the Training Distribution in Brains and Machines, ICLR 2021

3. GAN-Based Data Augmentation for Chest X-ray Classification.
   S. Sundaram* and N. Hulkund*.
   Workshop on Applied Data Science for Healthcare, KDD 2021

4. Do Neural Networks for Segmentation Understand Insideness?
   K. Villalobos*, V. Štih*, A. Ahmadinejad*, **S. Sundaram**, J. Dozier, A. Francl, F. Azevdo, T. Sasaki, and X. Boix.
   Neural Computation, vol. 33, no. 9, 2021

Work Experience

Google Research — Cambridge, MA
Student Researcher — December 2023 - Present

- Developing task-adaptive strategies for generating synthetic data in data-scarce settings using diffusion models (on the VisCam team).

DeepMind — London, UK
Research Engineering Intern — June - August 2022

- Researched novel data sampling strategies for pre-training large language models on the Deep Learning team.

Center for Brains, Minds, and Machines, MIT — Cambridge, MA
Undergraduate Researcher — September 2019 - May 2022

- Researched Deep Neural Network (DNN) models for vision capable of learning generalizable representations of fundamental visual features with long-range spatial dependencies.
- Studied applications in segmenting closed curves and symmetry detection, focusing on OOD generalization.

The D. E. Shaw Group — New York, NY
Quantitative Research Intern — June - August 2021

- Developed tools to benchmark Reinforcement Learning models for portfolio management.
- Derived baseline theoretical trading models using optimal control theory.
- Trained RL models that outperformed theoretical baselines in trading simulations and uncovered interpretable insights for learned policies.

Apple Cupertino, CA
Machine Learning Intern June - August 2020

- Built machine learning models to forecast battery drain from iPhone time series usage data, enabling intelligent power management.
- Deployed an end-to-end machine learning pipeline on-device for power optimization, aiming to release to consumer iPhones; selected from 15 interns to present to SVP of Software Engineering based on impact.

Two Sigma Investments Houston, TX
Software Engineering Intern May - August 2019

- Developed a RESTful Flask service and UI to create and maintain collections of instruments for trading.
- Tool is now used by 4 teams to track over 20,000 instruments with unique trading characteristics.

Digital Humanities Lab, MIT Cambridge, MA
Undergraduate Researcher September - December 2018

- Collaborated on open-source project: "Computational Reading of Gender in Novels, 1770-1992".
- Designed and released Python tools to uncover gender biases in 4,200 novels.

Awards

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship 2022 - 2025

HDTV Grand Alliance Fellowship 2022 - 2023

MIT Undergraduate Research and Innovation Scholar 2020

MIT Burchard Scholar 2020
Recognizes students who excel in the humanities

Service & Leadership

Reviewer: ICCV Workshop on Representation Learning with Very Limited Images 2023

Reviewer: ICML Workshop on Challenges in Deployable Generative AI 2023

Event Coordinator: MIT Graduate Women of EECS 2023

Mentor: MIT Graduate Application Assistant Program 2022 - Present

Associate Editor: MIT Science Policy Review 2020 - 2022

VP of Campus Relations: MIT Society of Women Engineers 2019 - 2021

Invited Talks

DreamSim: Learning New Dimensions of Human Visual Similarity using Synthetic Data.
Adobe, October 2023.

DreamSim: Learning New Dimensions of Human Visual Similarity using Synthetic Data.
Computer Vision Meetup, hosted by Voxel51, July 2023.

Skills & Interests

Skills: Python (PyTorch, Jax/Haiku, Tensorflow), Java, C/C++, CoreML, R.

Research Interests: Generative models, representation learning, computer vision, machine learning.